

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 17, 2022

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Austin:

Thank you for your longstanding commitment to supporting the men and women who have served our nation in uniform. As you continue working to ensure these individuals have access to the healthcare they have rightfully earned, we urge you to require TRICARE to cover the cost of up to eight over-the-counter at-home COVID-19 tests per month.

The coronavirus pandemic has deeply impacted the nation, and it is critical we continue working together to mitigate its continued spread. In order to increase access to at-home COVID-19 tests, the Biden-Harris administration has directed private insurers to cover the cost of eight over-the-counter COVID-19 tests per person per month. To further broaden access to testing across the nation, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has recently announced it will require the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to allow Medicare recipients to receive up to eight tests per month at no cost.

These orders have been crucial steps in reducing the spread of COVID-19 and have significantly expanded access for Americans. However, millions of TRICARE beneficiaries have been left out of these policies, with no other option but to pay out-of-pocket for at-home tests.

Under current regulations, TRICARE does not cover the cost of at-home COVID-19 tests. TRICARE will only provide coverage of tests that are ordered by a TRICARE-authorized provider for a medically necessary purpose. All other reasons - such as personal concern, returning to work, or travel - are not currently covered.

We urge you to bring TRICARE policy into parity with the latest administration orders. To protect individuals from the ongoing COVID-19 variants, we urge you require TRICARE to provide full coverage of over-the-counter COVID-19 rapid tests to TRICARE beneficiaries at no cost.

We share your commitment to ensuring TRICARE beneficiaries have access to the highest quality care, including access to free at-home rapid COVID-19 testing. Thank you for your efforts, and we look forward to working with you to address this issue.

Sincerely,



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Elaine Luria
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

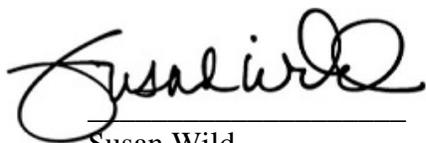


Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress

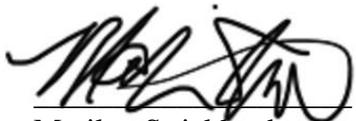
_____/s/_____
Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



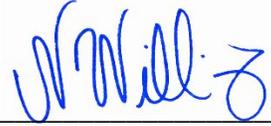
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



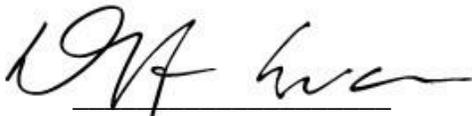
Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Marie Newman
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



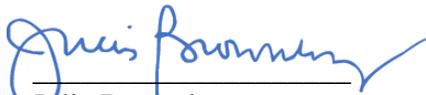
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



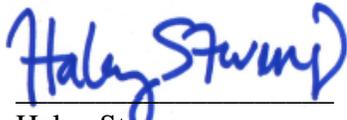
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Haley Stevens
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____

André Carson
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



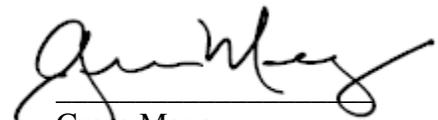
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



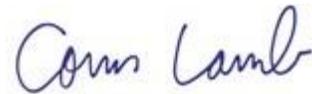
Ron Kind
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Grace Meng
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Jamie Raskin
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Conor Lamb
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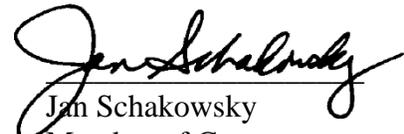
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



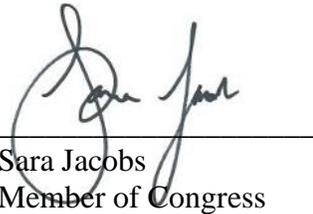
Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



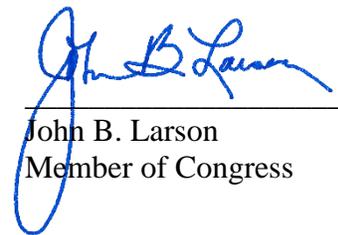
Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



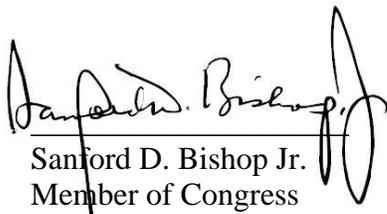
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop Jr.
Member of Congress



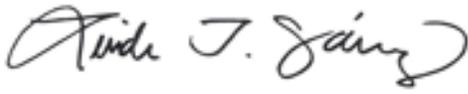
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

/s/
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

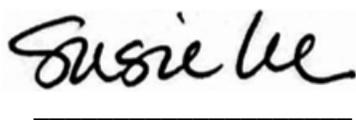

Daniel T. Kildee
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